DC

SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE

CAN YOU FACE THE...

SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE

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20¢

NO. 13

SEPT.

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CHARLES ATLAS, World's No. 1 Body Builder, says:

Don't Be Half A Man!

Let ME SHOW How I Can Make You a Real HE-MAN From Head to Toe — in Just 15 Minutes a Day! Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a real HE-MAN! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.

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HOW I CHANGED FROM A "MOUSE" TO A MAN!

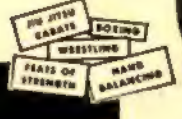
One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" — a "magic formula" that can help turn *you*, too, into a marvellous physical specimen . . . a real HE-MAN from head to toe . . . a man who STANDS OUT in any crowd! What's my secret? "DYNAMIC-TENSION" — the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body — build them up — use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard SOLID MUSCLE!

MY SECRET BUILDS MUSCLES FAST!

Just 15 minutes each day in the privacy of your room is all it takes to make your chest and shoulder muscles swell so big they almost split your coat seams . . . turn your fists into sledge-hammers . . . build mighty legs that never tire! Mail coupon today for my famous book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can give *you* a Body by Atlas. Charles Atlas, Dept. 81J 115 E. 23 St., New York, N. Y. 10010.

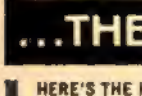
5 FREE GIFTS

If you act now, in addition to my complete course, you will also get these five valuable outline courses.

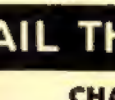


DO YOU WANT...

A DEEP CHEST? I can add SOLID INCHES of powerful muscle to your chest — make you look and feel like a dynamo.

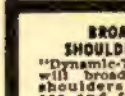


BIG ARM MUSCLES? You'll see and feel your arm muscles BULGE out with super power and energy.

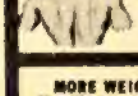


TIRELESS LEGS? I make your legs strong and powerful with the tireless drive of a long distance runner.

MAGNETIC PERSONALITY? "Dynamic-Tension" makes you alive with vitality — the husky that men respect and women admire.



BROAD SHOULDERS? "Dynamic-Tension" will broaden your shoulders. You'll see and feel RE-SULTS IN 7 DAYS!



MORE WEIGHT? You'll put on pounds in the right places. "Dynamic-Tension" rebuilds you inside and out.

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- ☐ MORE MUSCLE —BIGGER CHEST
- ☐ BIG ARM MUSCLES
- ☐ BROAD BACK & SHOULDERS
- ☐ TIRELESS LEGS
- ☐ MORE WEIGHT
- ☐ MAGNETIC PERSONALITY

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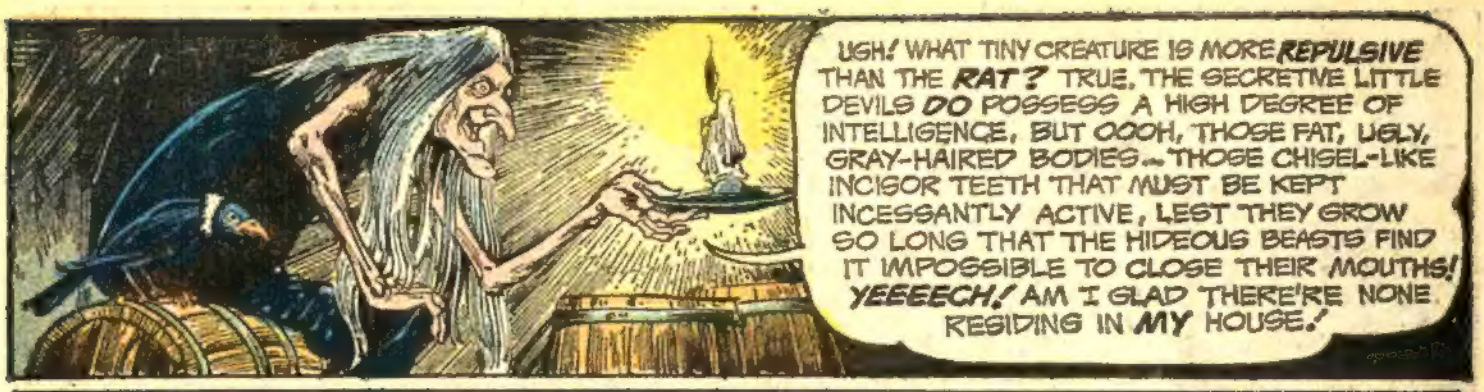
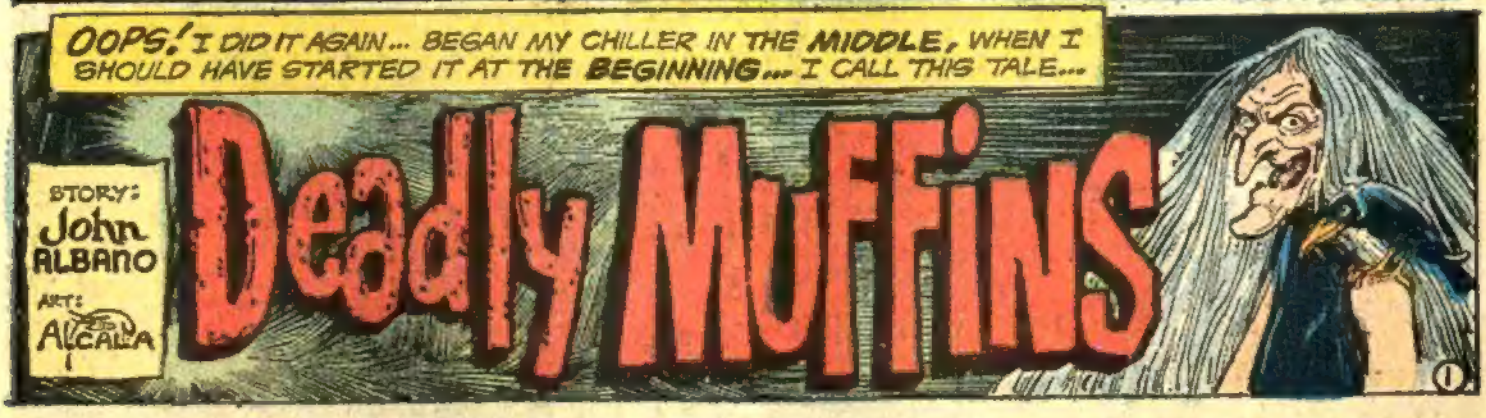
CHARLES ATLAS ON TV

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'

HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE — ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL IT'S MY TURN ... THIS TIME!
WHAM! - NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!


UGH! WHAT TINY CREATURE IS MORE REPULSIVE THAN THE RAT? TRUE, THE SECRETIVE LITTLE DEVILS DO POSSESS A HIGH DEGREE OF INTELLIGENCE, BUT OOOH, THOSE FAT, UGLY, GRAY-HAIRED BODIES... THOSE CHISEL-LIKE INCISOR TEETH THAT MUST BE KEPT INCESSANTLY ACTIVE, LEST THEY GROW SO LONG THAT THE HIDEOUS BEASTS FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CLOSE THEIR MOUTHS! YEEEECH! AM I GLAD THERE'RE NONE RESIDING IN MY HOUSE!

NATURALLY, THE STORY I'M GOING TO TELL IS ABOUT JUST SUCH FRIGHTFUL ANIMALS... WITH ONE ADDED DIMENSION--YOU WON'T FIND THE RODENTS IN THIS TALE RUNNING AROUND IN YOUR BASEMENT OR CLIMBING OUT OF SOME SEWER... THESE FELLOWS ARE, TO SAY THE LEAST, A BIT TOO LARGE FOR THAT... HEE HEE HEE HEE...
MY GOD... RATS... ALMOST THE SIZE OF ELEPHANTS!
J-1946


OOPS! I DID IT AGAIN... BEGAN MY CHILLER IN THE MIDDLE, WHEN I SHOULD HAVE STARTED IT AT THE BEGINNING... I CALL THIS TALE...
STORY: John ALBANO
ART: ALCALA
Deadly Muffins

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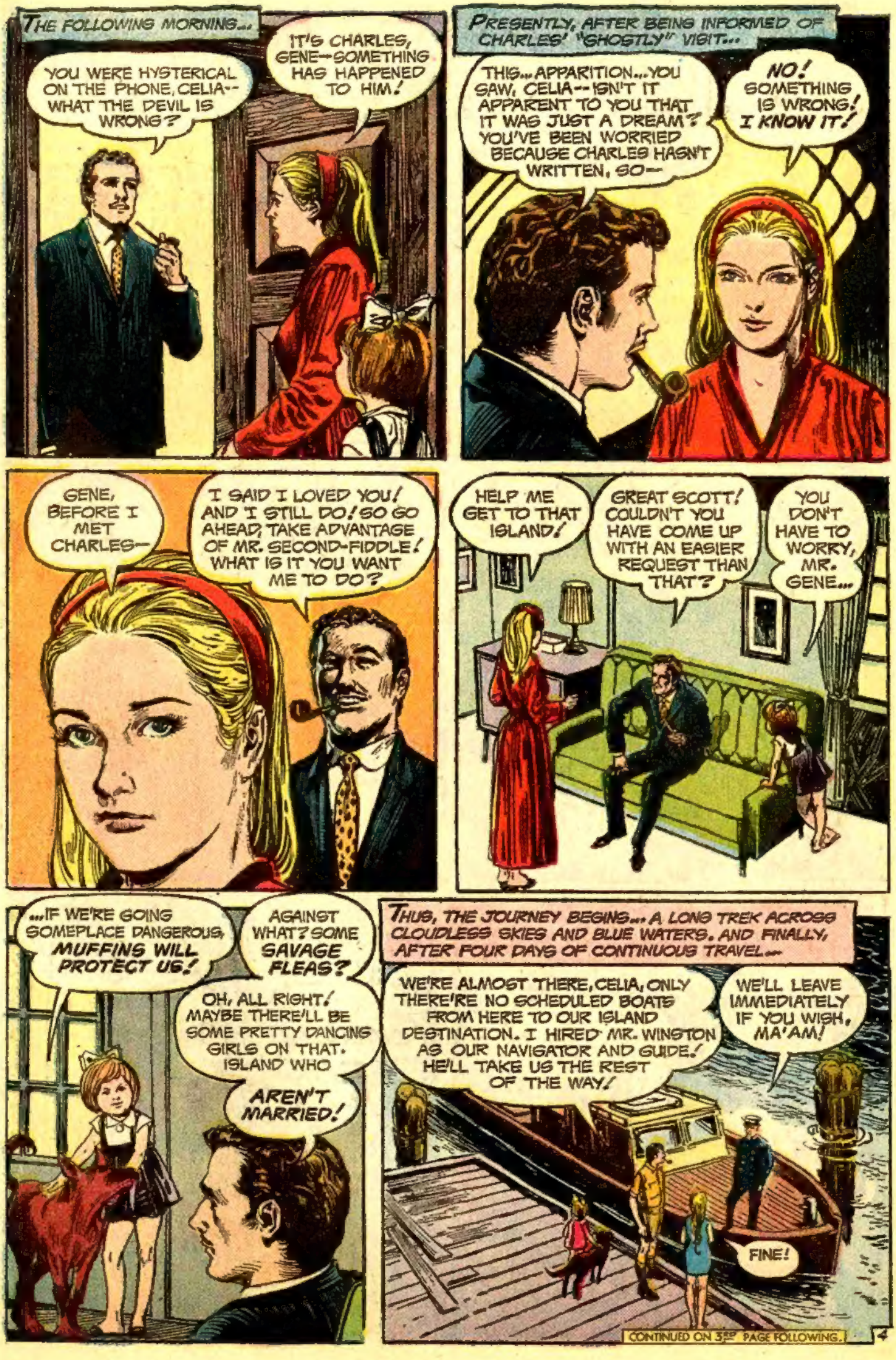
IT ALL BEGAN WHEN CHARLES HALLENBACK STARTED GROWING RESTLESS AND BORED WITH HIS ROUTINE DUTIES AT THE WHOLEWAY TRAVEL AGENCY...
OH, CHARLES...
...DUTIES THAT INCLUDED THE PREPARING OF ITINERARIES FOR OTHER PEOPLE SO THAT THEY COULD TRAVEL TO FAR-AWAY LANDS, BOTH MYSTERIOUS AND EXCITING...
MR. EARL POWERS CALLED-- HE WANTS YOU TO DELIVER HIS TICKETS TO HIM AT HIS APARTMENT. IT'S LATE, SO YOU CAN GO HOME FROM THERE, IF YOU LIKE.
RIGHT. THANK YOU, MR. MORAY.
SOON AFTERWARD...
YOUR FRIENDLY TRAVEL AGENT IS HERE, MR. POWERS!
HI, CHARLES! COME IN AND FIX YOURSELF A DRINK!
NO THANKS. IF MY WIFE EVER DETECTED THE ODOR OF LIQUOR ON MY BREATH...
THAT'S ONE WORRY I'VE SPARED MYSELF. NO WIFE, NO MEDDLING RELATIVES--
I WAS BORN FREE AND I'LL REMAIN FREE!
ONLY THING I'M MARRIED TO IS MY BUSINESS. I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHY I'M MAKING THIS TRIP CHARLES...
YES. YOU TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY ON THE TELEPHONE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I EXPECT TO FIND ON THAT ISLAND I'M BOUND FOR... SOMETHING UNUSUALLY STRANGE ABOUT... ABOUT... UH...
AAARRRG!
?
2

SOMETIME LATER...
A HEART ATTACK?
THAT'S RIGHT, CELIA—MR. POWERS IS DEAD—AND I'M ASSUMING HIS IDENTITY! I'M GOING TO THAT ISLAND!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING YOU'RE SAYING, CHARLES!
MR. POWERS FINANCED A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO AN UNEXPLORED ISLAND IN ASIA! THE TWO SCIENTISTS HE SENT THERE REPORTED BACK BY RADIO THAT THEY HAD MADE A STARTLING DISCOVERY!
...THEN THEY WERE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN!
DON'T YOU SEE, CELIA—IF I CAN FIND OUT WHAT THAT DISCOVERY WAS, WE MAY BECOME RICH!
YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND! THE ENTIRE IDEA IS INSANE!
DADDY ARE YOU GOING AWAY?
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, SUSIE! I'LL BE BACK SOON, I PROMISE YOU!
CHARLES, LISTEN—PLEASE...
BUT CHARLES HALLENBACK DID NOT LISTEN, FOR HE KNEW THAT OPPORTUNITY IS BUT A FLEETING THING... A THING TO BE SEIZED UPON WITHOUT HESITATION, LEST IT PASS AWAY FOREVER AND NEVER PRESENT ITSELF AGAIN...
...THUS CHARLES HALLENBACK BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR ADVENTURE AND RICHES...NEVER FAILING TO REPORT HIS PROGRESS WITH PERIODIC LETTERS TO HIS LOVED ONES AT HOME. BUT AFTER THREE WEEKS, HIS CORRESPONDENCE SUDDENLY STOPS...
I'M SORRY, MRS. HALLENBACK! NOTHING FOR YOU TODAY...
A FOURTH WEEK PASSES WITHOUT A WORD... THEN, LATE ONE EVENING, HIS WIFE CELIA IS AWAKENED FROM HER SLEEP BY THE STRANGE FEELING THAT THERE IS ANOTHER PRESENCE IN HER ROOM...
W-WHO—?
CHARLES!!
FORGIVE ME, CELIA... I'M... SORRY I EVER LEFT YOU AND SUSIE... ...FORGIVE ME... ...PLEASE...


THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
YOU WERE HYSTERICAL ON THE PHONE, CELIA--WHAT THE DEVIL IS WRONG?
IT'S CHARLES, GENE--SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO HIM!
PRESENTLY, AFTER BEING INFORMED OF CHARLES' "GHOSTLY" VISIT...
THIS...APPARITION...YOU SAW, CELIA--ISN'T IT APPARENT TO YOU THAT IT WAS JUST A DREAM? YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED BECAUSE CHARLES HASN'T WRITTEN, SO--
NO! SOMETHING IS WRONG! I KNOW IT!
GENE, BEFORE I MET CHARLES--
I SAID I LOVED YOU! AND I STILL DO! SO GO AHEAD, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MR. SECOND-FIDDLE! WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?
HELP ME GET TO THAT ISLAND!
GREAT SCOTT! COULDN'T YOU HAVE COME UP WITH AN EASIER REQUEST THAN THAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, MR. GENE...
...IF WE'RE GOING SOMEPLACE DANGEROUS, MUFFINS WILL PROTECT US!
AGAINST WHAT? SOME SAVAGE FLEAS?
OH, ALL RIGHT! MAYBE THERE'LL BE SOME PRETTY DANCING GIRLS ON THAT ISLAND WHO
AREN'T MARRIED!
THUS, THE JOURNEY BEGINS... A LONG TREK ACROSS CLOUDLESS SKIES AND BLUE WATERS. AND FINALLY, AFTER FOUR DAYS OF CONTINUOUS TRAVEL...
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, CELIA, ONLY THERE'RE NO SCHEDULED BOATS FROM HERE TO OUR ISLAND DESTINATION. I HIRED MR. WINSTON AS OUR NAVIGATOR AND GUIDE! HE'LL TAKE US THE REST OF THE WAY!
WE'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU WISH, MA'AM!
FINE!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.
4

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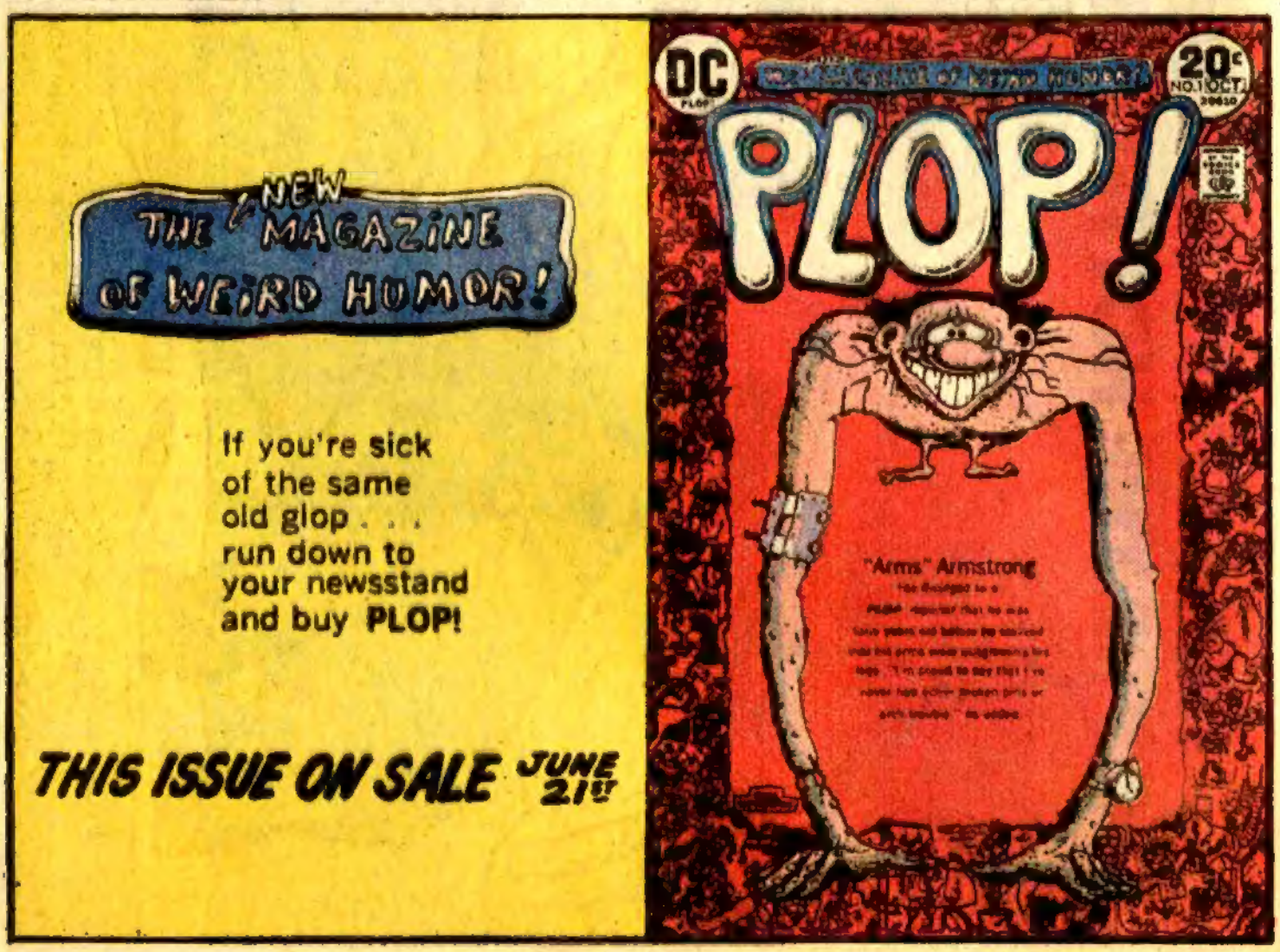
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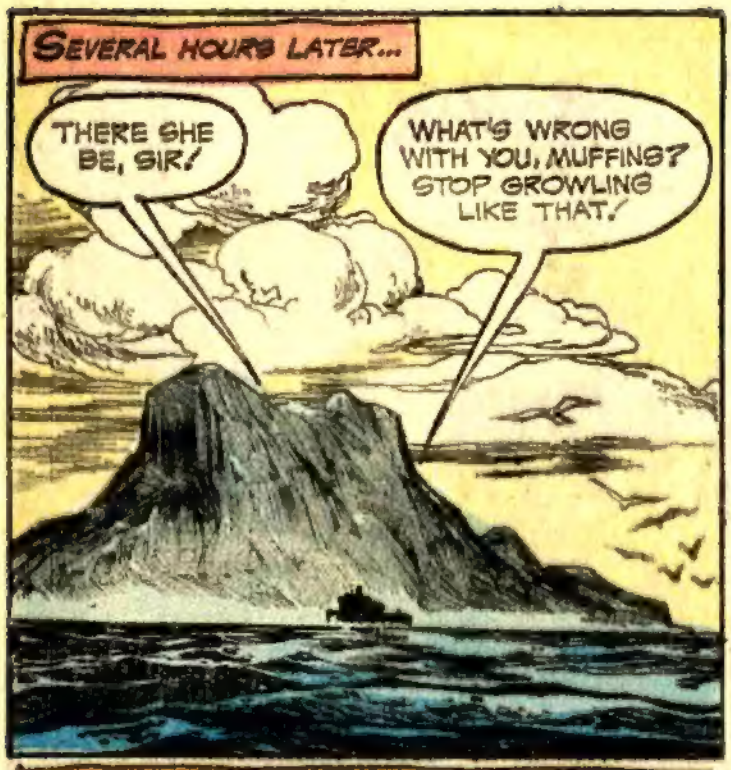

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
THERE SHE BE, SIR!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MUFFING? STOP GROWLING LIKE THAT!

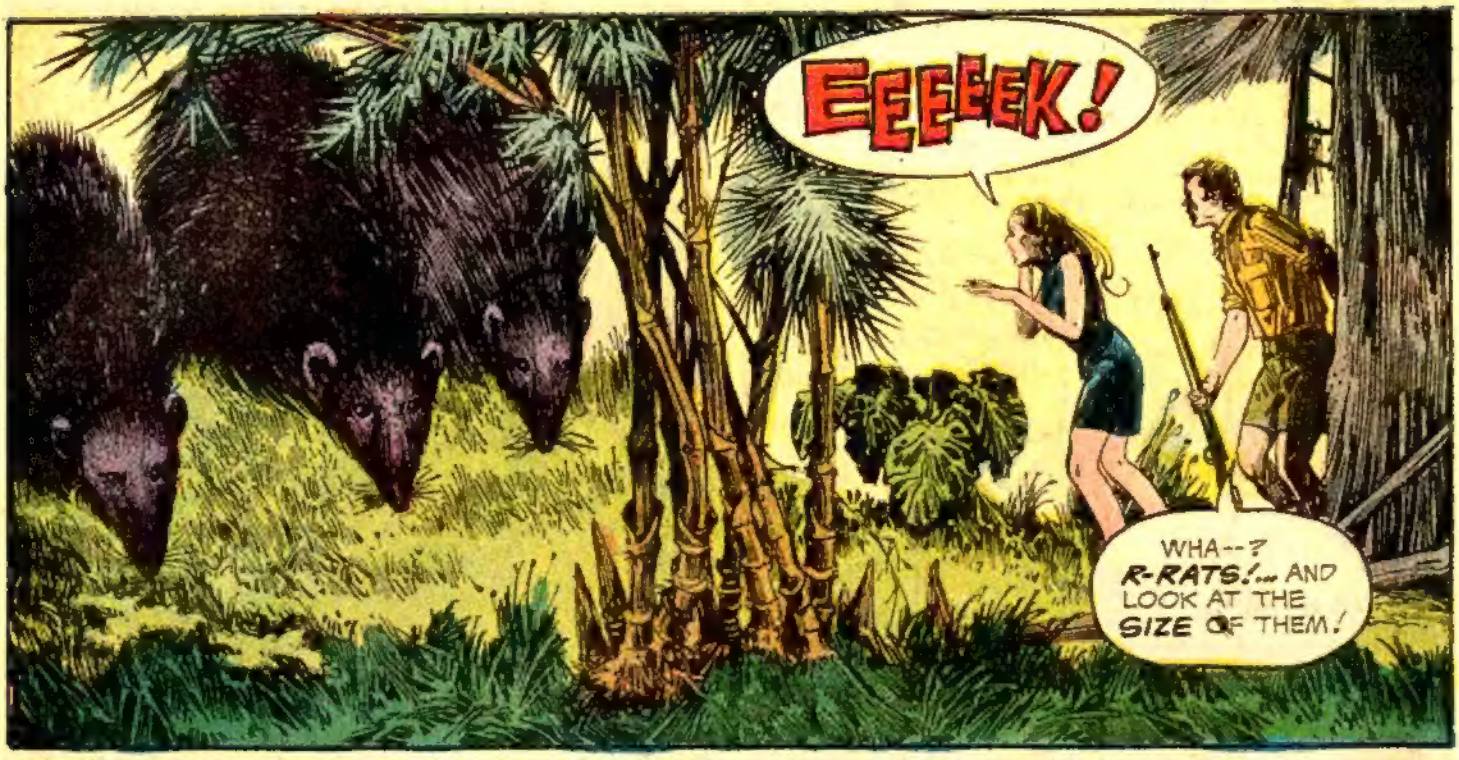
...GENE...FROM THE MOMENT I GET EYES ON THIS PLACE...
YEAH--I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, CELIA. MUFFING FELT IT TOO. SOMETHING EVIL, FOREBODING...

AN HOUR LATER... AFTER TRAVELLING THROUGH THE DENSE JUNGLE...
SEE ANYTHING YET, MR. WINSTON?
THERE'S A CLEARING UP AHEAD, WE'LL REACH IT SHORTLY!

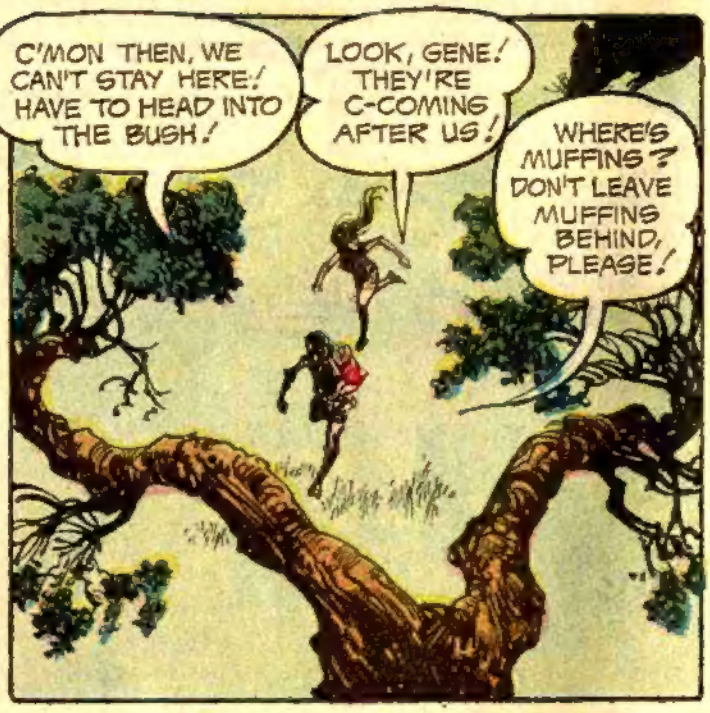
THEN...
A LABORATORY!
LOOKS COMPLETELY DESERTED THOUGH...

WHAT'S THAT, GENE?
LAB NOTES. ALL ABOUT A DISCOVERY... PLANTS, GROWING WILD ON THIS ISLAND, WHEN MIXED WITH CERTAIN CHEMICALS AND FED TO EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS, CAUSE RAPID AND UNUSUAL GROWTH!

AIIEEEEE!
GOOD LORD! WHAT WAS THAT?!


EEEEEEK!
WHA--? R-RATS!... AND LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THEM!

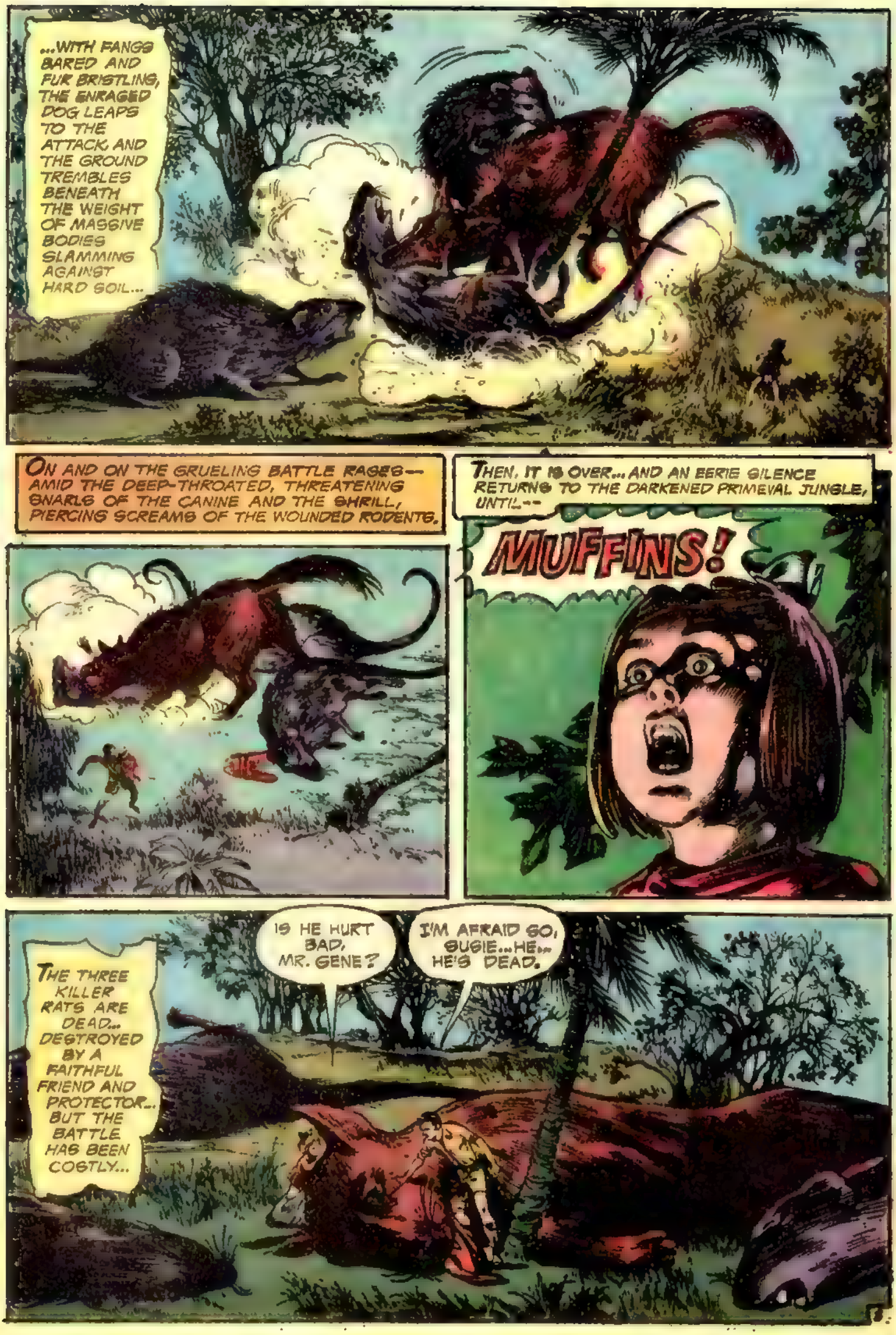
RUN, CELIA! TRY AND MAKE IT TO THE BEACH!
IMPOSSIBLE! T-THOSE THINGS ARE BLOCKING THE W-WAY!
EEEAAAHHH!


C'MON THEN, WE CAN'T STAY HERE! HAVE TO HEAD INTO THE BUSH!
LOOK, GENE! THEY'RE C-COMING AFTER US!
WHERE'S MUFFINS? DON'T LEAVE MUFFINS BEHIND, PLEASE!

MUFFINS WILL BE ALL RIGHT, SUSIE!
THEY'RE STILL COMING--I CAN HEAR THEM! WE'VE GOT TO--
A CAVE! IF WE CAN REACH IT BEFORE THOSE--

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! WE'RE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING... THE ENTRANCE IS TOO SMALL FOR THEM TO GET THROUGH...
BUT NOW WHAT, GENE? H-HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO MAKE IT TO THE BEACH? DO Y-YOU THINK THEY'LL LEAVE AFTER A WHILE?

HARD TO SAY, CELIA. RATS ARE FAIRLY INTELLIGENT. ALL WE CAN HOPE IS THAT THEY'LL CATCH THE SCENT OF MORE INTERESTING GAME SOON...
BUT AS THE HOURS PASS AND TURN INTO DAYS, THAT HOPE BEGINS TO VANISH...
...FOR THESE GIGANTIC BEASTS SEEM TO SENSE THAT THEIR PREY MUST EVENTUALLY EMERGE TO SEEK FOOD AND WATER... AND SO THEY PATIENTLY LIE AND WAIT... THEN FINALLY, ON THE EVENING OF THE SECOND DAY, WHILE CELIA AND GENE LIE SLEEPING...
I'M SMALL, SO I BET THOSE STUPID RATS WON'T SEE ME SNEAK OUT...
I'M GOING TO FIND SOME TREES WITH FRUIT ON THEM...
...I'LL EAT SOME MYSELF THEN BRING SOME BACK FOR MOMMY AND MR. GENE! THEN I'LL SNEAK OUT AGAIN AND FIND MUFFINS!
WHA--? THEY'VE SEEN ME!
MOMMY! MOMMY!
IT WAS HORRIBLE—CARNIVOROUS ANIMALS ABOUT TO FEAST UPON A TINY AND HELPLESS CREATURE...
--BUT SUDDENLY THE ATTACK COMES TO AN ABRUPT HALT, AS THE GIANT BEASTS' EYES BEGIN TO FOCUS ON AN AREA FROM WHICH THEY SEEM TO HAVE PICKED UP THE SCENT OF A DANGEROUS AND ANCIENT FOE...
...MOMMY...
...AN ANGRY CANINE...
...A CANINE NAMED MUFFINS, NOW AS HUGE AS HIS OPPONENTS...

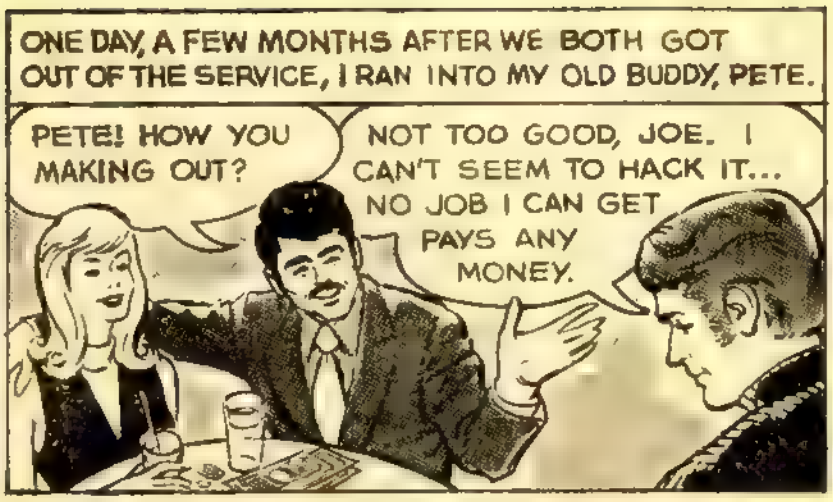

...WITH FANGS BARED AND FUR BRISTLING, THE ENRAGED DOG LEAPS TO THE ATTACK AND THE GROUND TREMBLES BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF MASSIVE BODIES SLAMMING AGAINST HARD SOIL...
ON AND ON THE GRUELING BATTLE RAGES— AMID THE DEEP-THROATED, THREATENING SNARLS OF THE CANINE AND THE SHRILL, PIERCING SCREAMS OF THE WOUNDED RODENTS.
THEN, IT IS OVER... AND AN EERIE SILENCE RETURNS TO THE DARKENED PRIMEVAL JUNGLE, UNTIL—
MUFFINS!
THE THREE KILLER RATS ARE DEAD... DESTROYED BY A FAITHFUL FRIEND AND PROTECTOR... BUT THE BATTLE HAS BEEN COSTLY...
IS HE HURT BAD, MR. GENE?
I'M AFRAID SO, BUGIE... HE... HE'S DEAD.

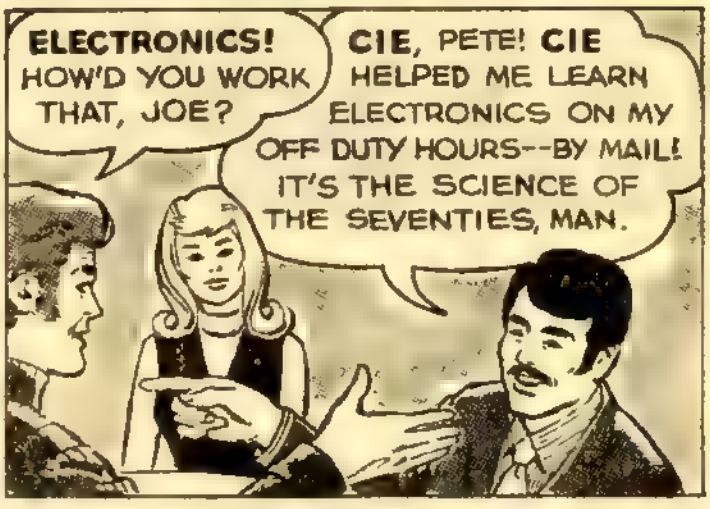
YOUR MUFFINS HAD ONE HECK OF A FIGHTING HEART, SUSIE!
GENE... W-N'LL YOU COME OVER HERE A MINUTE...
I THINK I'VE FOUND MY HUSBAND...
GOOD LORD! THE REMAINS OF THREE BODIES! THOSE FILTHY RODENTS!
THE TWO SCIENTISTS AND CHARLES... I WONDER IF THEY EVER THOUGHT THEY'D END UP LIKE THAT...
EACH OF THEM SOUGHT RICHES AND FAME... YOU CAN'T FAULT THEM FOR THAT...
EVIDENTLY THE SCIENTISTS BEGAN FEEDING THOSE EXPERIMENTAL RATS THAT WEIRD FOOD AND WERE UNABLE TO STOP THEIR GROWTH...
...AND MUFFINS! AFTER HE GOT LOST AND BECAME HUNGRY, HE MUST HAVE WANDERED BACK TO THE LAB AND ALSO FEASTED ON THAT STRANGE FOOD--
CELIA! W-WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
THIS ISLAND REEKS OF EVIL AND DEATH! I'M GOING TO DESTROY IT!
...AND FIRE IS THE ONLY WAY TO DESTROY EVIL!
THE END

Read this story if you want to . . .

"GET IT ALL TOGETHER"

. . . when you get out of the service


ONE DAY, A FEW MONTHS AFTER WE BOTH GOT OUT OF THE SERVICE, I RAN INTO MY OLD BUDDY, PETE.
PETE! HOW YOU MAKING OUT?
NOT TOO GOOD, JOE. I CAN'T SEEM TO HACK IT... NO JOB I CAN GET PAYS ANY MONEY.


ELECTRONICS! HOW'D YOU WORK THAT, JOE?
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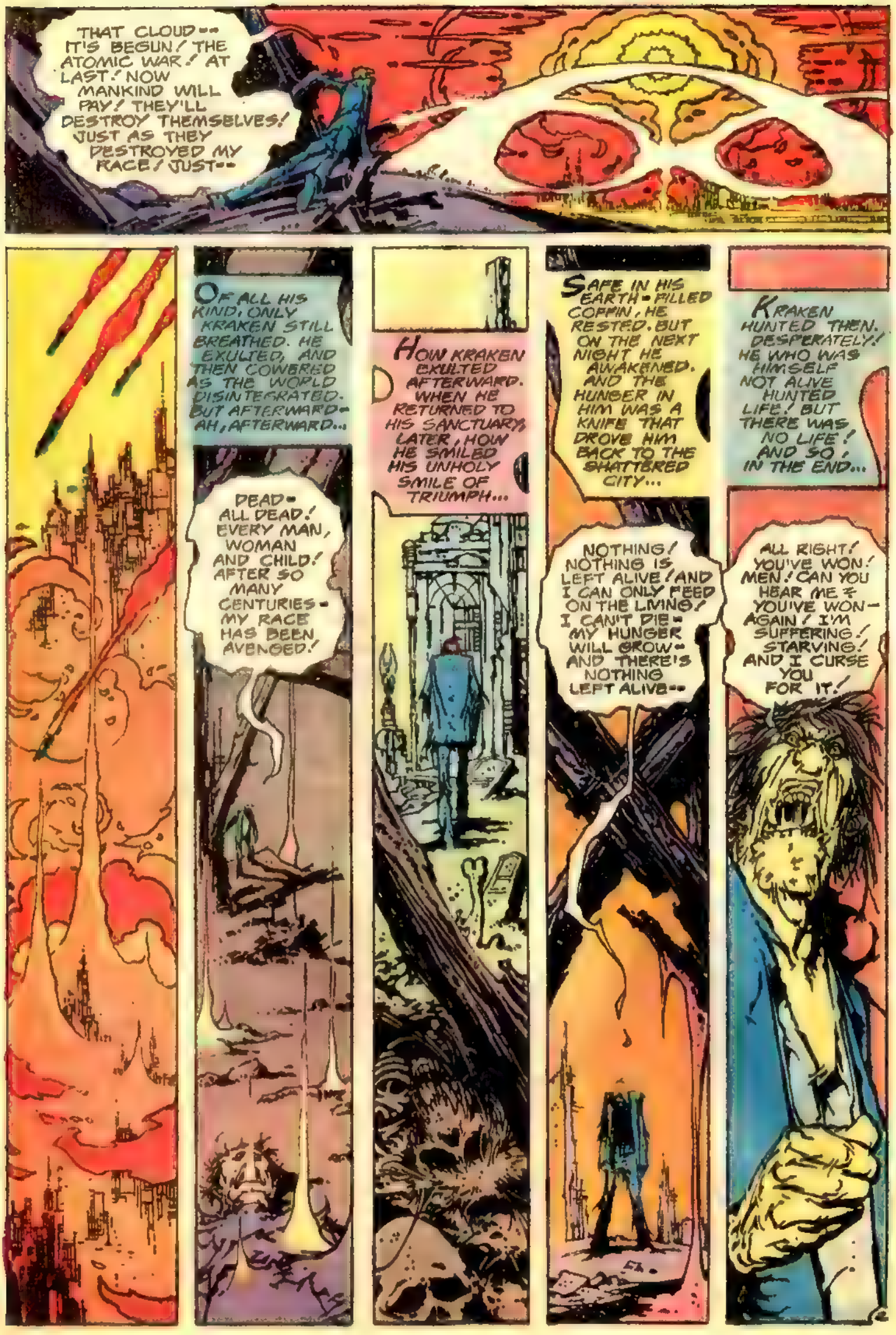
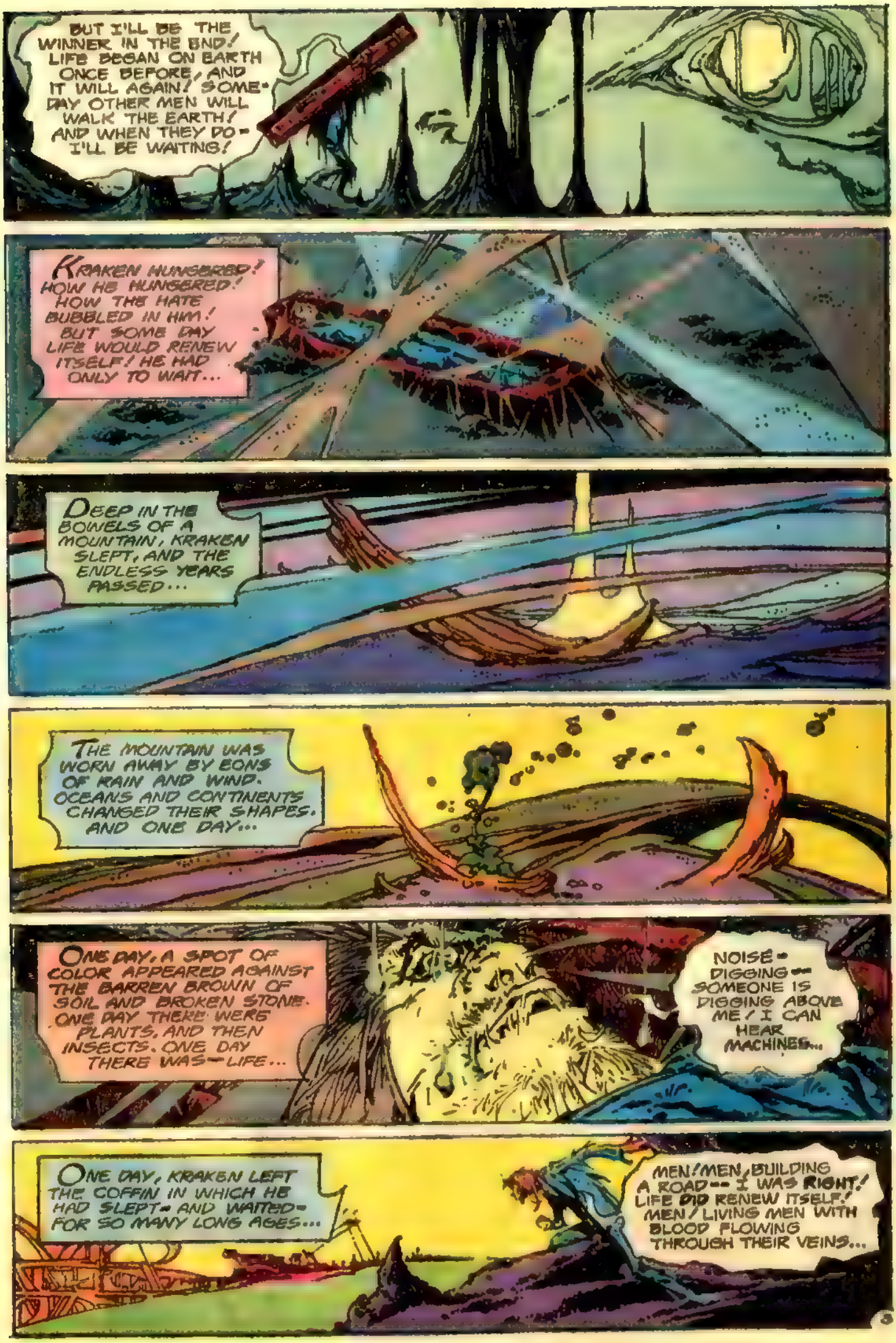
KRAKEN WAS THE LAST OF HIS KIND. MEN HAD EXTERMINATED THE OTHERS AND THEN EXTERMINATED THEMSELVES. HOW HE HATED THEM! BUT ONE DAY HE WOULD EVEN THE SCORE! ONE DAY HE WOULD KNOW AGAIN...
THE TASTE OF BLOOD
ON THAT LAST NIGHT, KRAKEN HAD DINED WELL. HIS VICTIM HAD BEEN YOUNG, FILLED WITH THE JUICES OF LIFE. AND SO HE WAS SATED WHEN THE WORLD ERUPTED...
WHAT — WHAT HAPPENED! THAT WASN'T AN ORDINARY EXPLOSION! WHAT —
HE FELT NO HUNGER ON THAT NIGHT, NO FEAR. HOW CAN A THING ALREADY DEAD — AND YET ALIVE — KNOW FEAR? BUT HE COULD WONDER...
LIGHT! HEAT — WHAT IS IT? I'VE NEVER KNOWN SUCH HEAT —
ART: Jerry Ordway
SCRIPT: Jack Cook
1 3-1985

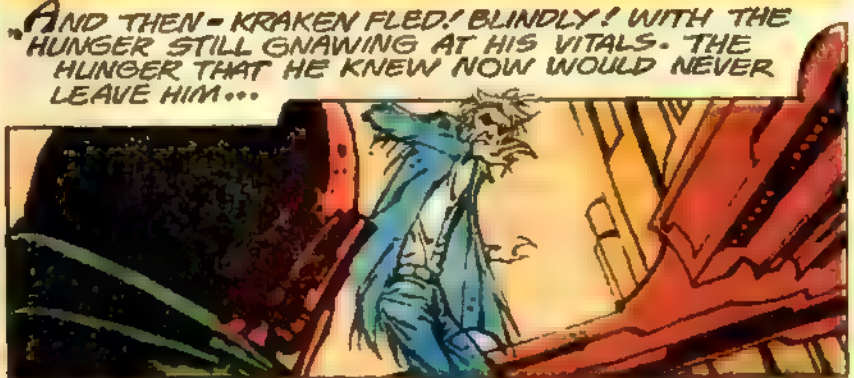

THAT CLOUD-- IT'S BEGUN! THE ATOMIC WAR! AT LAST! NOW MANKIND WILL PAY! THEY'LL DESTROY THEMSELVES! JUST AS THEY DESTROYED MY RACE! JUST--
OF ALL HIS KIND, ONLY KRAKEN STILL BREATHED. HE EXULTED, AND THEN COWERED AS THE WORLD DISINTEGRATED. BUT AFTERWARD- AH, AFTERWARD...
DEAD- ALL DEAD! EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD! AFTER SO MANY CENTURIES- MY RACE HAS BEEN AVENGED!
HOW KRAKEN EXULTED AFTERWARD. WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS SANCTUARY, LATER, HOW HE SMILED HIS UNHOLY SMILE OF TRIUMPH...
SAFE IN HIS EARTH-FILLED COFFIN, HE RESTED. BUT ON THE NEXT NIGHT HE AWAKENED. AND THE HUNGER IN HIM WAS A KNIFE THAT DROVE HIM BACK TO THE SHATTERED CITY...
NOTHING! NOTHING IS LEFT ALIVE! AND I CAN ONLY FEED ON THE LIVING! I CAN'T DIE- MY HUNGER WILL GROW-- AND THERE'S NOTHING LEFT ALIVE--
KRAKEN HUNTED THEN. DESPERATELY! HE WHO WAS HIMSELF NOT ALIVE HUNTED LIFE! BUT THERE WAS NO LIFE! AND SO, IN THE END...
ALL RIGHT! YOU'VE WON! MEN! CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU'VE WON- AGAIN! I'M SUFFERING! STARVING! AND I CURSE YOU FOR IT!


BUT I'LL BE THE WINNER IN THE END! LIFE BEGAN ON EARTH ONCE BEFORE, AND IT WILL AGAIN! SOME-DAY OTHER MEN WILL WALK THE EARTH! AND WHEN THEY DO - I'LL BE WAITING!
KRAKEN HUNGERED! HOW HE HUNGERED! HOW THE HATE BUBBLED IN HIM! BUT SOME DAY LIFE WOULD RENEW ITSELF! HE HAD ONLY TO WAIT...
DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF A MOUNTAIN, KRAKEN SLEPT, AND THE ENDLESS YEARS PASSED...
THE MOUNTAIN WAS WORN AWAY BY EONS OF RAIN AND WIND. OCEANS AND CONTINENTS CHANGED THEIR SHAPES. AND ONE DAY...
ONE DAY, A SPOT OF COLOR APPEARED AGAINST THE BARREN BROWN OF SOIL AND BROKEN STONE. ONE DAY THERE WERE PLANTS, AND THEN INSECTS. ONE DAY THERE WAS - LIFE...
NOISE - DIGGING - SOMEONE IS DIGGING ABOVE ME / I CAN HEAR MACHINES...
ONE DAY, KRAKEN LEFT THE COFFIN IN WHICH HE HAD SLEPT - AND WAITED - FOR SO MANY LONG AGES...
MEN! MEN, BUILDING A ROAD -- I WAS RIGHT! LIFE DID RENEW ITSELF! MEN / LIVING MEN WITH BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH THEIR VEINS...

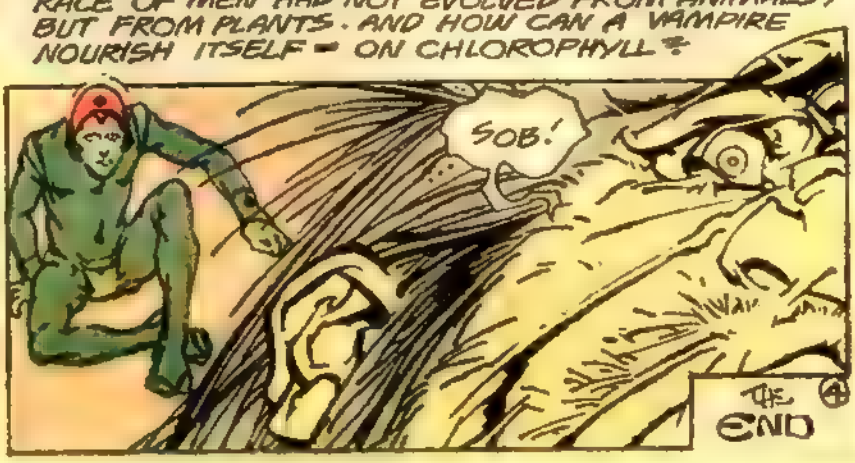
MEN, AT LAST! KRAKEN COULD ALMOST TASTE THE FEAST THAT WAS TO CROWN HIS LONG FAST! HE WASTED NO TIME. LATER...

NOW -- NOW! NOW, THE GNAWING HUNGER AND THE INTOLERABLE THIRST WOULD BE SATISFIED! KRAKEN TREMBLED IN HIS EAGERNESS. AND THEN...

AND THEN - KRAKEN FLED! BLINDLY! WITH THE HUNGER STILL GNAWING AT HIS VITALS. THE HUNGER THAT HE KNEW NOW WOULD NEVER LEAVE HIM...



LIFE HAD BEGUN ON EARTH. BUT THIS TIME, THE RACE OF MEN HAD NOT EVOLVED FROM ANIMALS, BUT FROM PLANTS. AND HOW CAN A VAMPIRE NOURISH ITSELF - ON CHLOROPHYLL?



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What are you doing here? I thought that you posts weren't due back for another full moon or so! Oh well, as long as you made it through the swamp (on your way out, please don't feed the werewolves they're going to get fat if you keep letting them have treats like raw readers), I might as well read your dumb letters.

• • • • •

Dear Eve,

Caught your latest at the corner apothecary's while I was getting a powdered bat-wing prescription filled for a cold I caught while brooming my way through some recent sub-zero nights. So you've finally stooped to telling stories for a comic! Really, Eve, sweetheart, I expected more from you. Remember the good old days at Cobweb U when a bunch of us old crones used to get together and spin some really good fables over a cup of vulture stew? Not like those fairy tales that you give out in that poor excuse for a magazine. They wouldn't hold water, let alone keep anyone on the edge of his seat. Of course, I always realized that you were the lowbrow type, dear, but must you flaunt it? The only decent story you told in #10 was "The Abominable Snowman" and it seems to me that I told you that one back in the Dark Ages. Normally, I hex plagarists, but I'm making an exception in your case, sweetie, since you need a little quality in your mag now and then.

'Til the Witches' Convention next October, I remain . . .

Cousin Hecate, Morbid Manor

What a pleasure to hear from you again, dearie. Are you still the same lovely little witch who was voted the one most likely to suffer from terminal plastic surgery?

And speaking of lowbrow jobs, weren't you the one who put an ad in the Witches' Good Castle & Keep Quarterly asking if there were any jobs available running fireworks shows at circuses? I won't even mention the number of stories that you've stolen from me, or for that matter from anybody who was around. Why I even remember one that you stole from Abel! No self-respecting witch could ever sink THAT low!

• • • • •

Dear Eve,

Well, I just purchased my second issue (#10) of Sinister House and I think it's a smash hit. Who drew the cover?

"The Cards Never Lie" was really good and I especially loved the ending.

I'm sorry I didn't write in to comment on #9.

Will D. Nash, Magnolia, N.J.

Dear Will,

Jack Sparling was the cover artist on #10 if my memory serves me. I'm not sorry that you didn't write in to comment on #9.

P.S. As long as you're planning on becoming a letter hack (if I don't hack you up first), why don't you learn to type?

• • • • •

Dear Eve,

I just grabbed a copy of Sinister House #9, and after it grabbed back at me, I paid the man 20c for it.

I don't particularly go for Jack Sparling's inside art, but I must admit his covers are great. His cover this issue looked so realistic that I thought it was a photograph.

I used to think that you were the cutest witch around, but after reading "Rub A Witch The Wrong Way," I've changed my tune! Mrs. Bowditch was a real swinger, and you must be at least a thousand years older than she is.

Maybe you'd better lay off for awhile and take a vacation. You can get one of those REAL witches from The Witching Hour to take over. At least THEY know how to spin a REAL mystery tale!!!

Alan Upchurch, Durham, North Carolina

Dear Alan,

I am only two hundred years older than Mrs. Bowditch and I'm a lot more fun to be with. Why don't you come out to the Sinister House for a cup of hemlock one day?

• • • • •

Dear Eve,

How did you become a witch? We would like to know the full way. Tell us how we mere mortals can become witches because we are very interested. Are there many covens of witches in Ohio?

Tracy Williams & Friends, Warren, Ohio

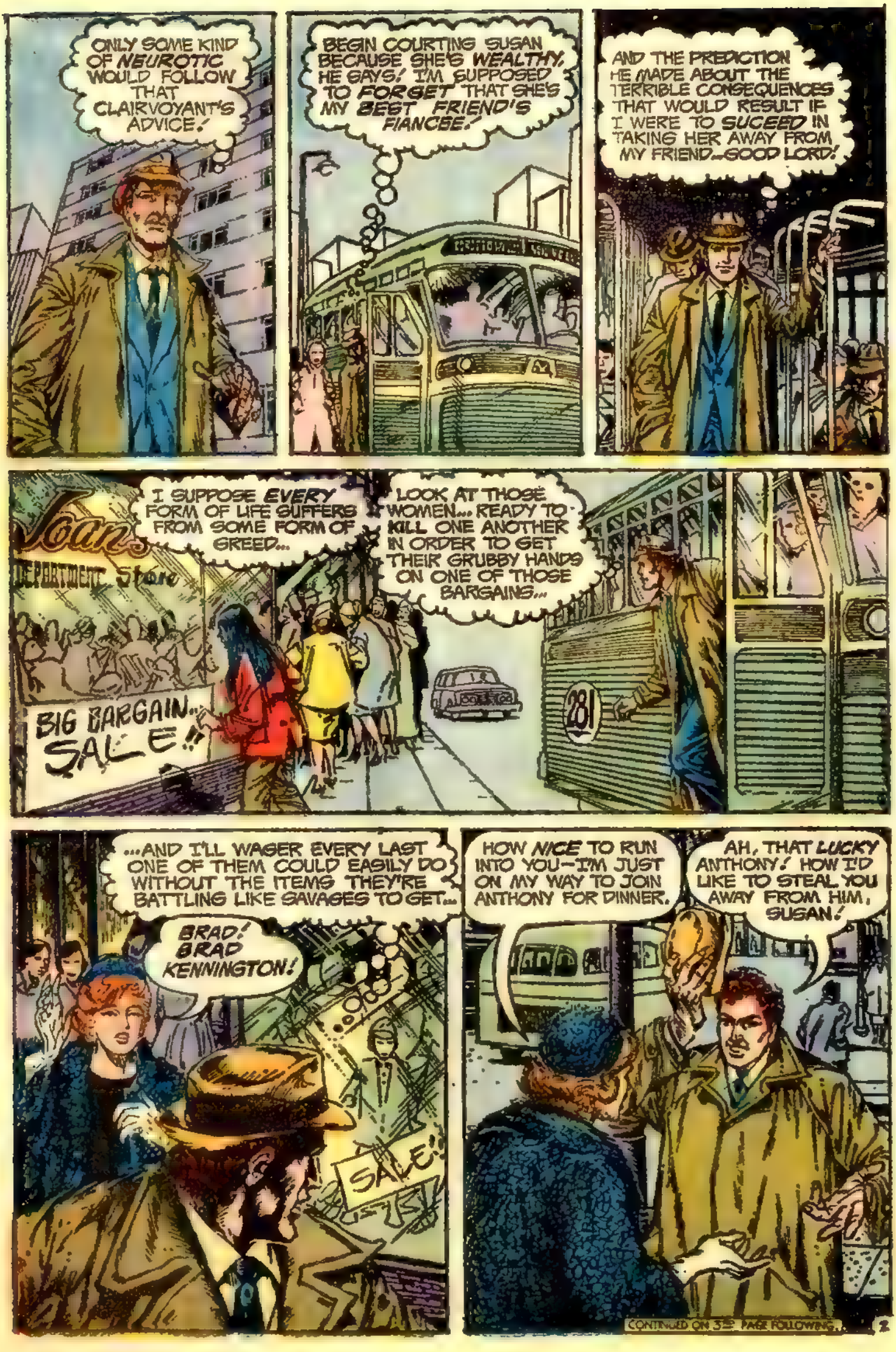
Dear Tracy,

The easiest way to become a witch is to go to Cobweb U, a wonderful little rats nest of a school in the southwest corner of Hades. Unfortunately, they're at full enrollment now. There are probably plenty of covens in Ohio, although I'm a Kentucky girl myself.

• • • • •

Well, that is it for this issue. Have a wonderful stroll through the swamps and please don't feed the werewolves! If you make it home, send your letters to: National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

YOU WEAK, UNSCRUPULOUS MORTALS DON'T FOOL ME! PERSONAL INTEGRITY, HIGH PRINCIPALS, HONESTY? HA! WITHIN EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU, IT'S THERE... BENEATH THAT THIN VENEER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS YOU'RE ALL THE SAME... JUST ONE TINY BIT OF TEMPTATION IS ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO BRING FORTH--
the GREED inside
STORY: John Albano
ART: Jess Jodloman
FOLLOW MY ADVICE, AND I PREDICT GREAT WEALTH WILL BE YOURS IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, MR. KENNINGTON!
GREAT WEALTH... AND GREAT TRAGEDY! TO BLAZES WITH YOUR ADVICE!
Y-YOU'RE SOME KIND OF A CRAZY DEMON, AND I MUST HAVE BEEN EQUALLY INSANE TO HAVE SOUGHT YOU OUT!


ONLY SOME KIND OF NEUROTIC WOULD FOLLOW THAT CLAIRVOYANT'S ADVICE!
BEGIN COURTING SUSAN BECAUSE SHE'S WEALTHY, HE SAYS! I'M SUPPOSED TO FORGET THAT SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND'S FIANCEE!
AND THE PREDICTION HE MADE ABOUT THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES THAT WOULD RESULT IF I WERE TO SUCEED IN TAKING HER AWAY FROM MY FRIEND...GOOD LORD!
I SUPPOSE EVERY FORM OF LIFE SUFFERS FROM SOME FORM OF GREED...
LOOK AT THOSE WOMEN... READY TO KILL ONE ANOTHER IN ORDER TO GET THEIR GRUBBY HANDS ON ONE OF THOSE BARGAINS...
Joan
DEPARTMENT Store
BIG BARGAIN... SALE!!
281
...AND I'LL WAGER EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM COULD EASILY DO WITHOUT THE ITEMS THEY'RE BATTLING LIKE SAVAGES TO GET...
BRAD! BRAD KENNINGTON!
SALE!
HOW NICE TO RUN INTO YOU—I'M JUST ON MY WAY TO JOIN ANTHONY FOR DINNER.
AH, THAT LUCKY ANTHONY! HOW I'D LIKE TO STEAL YOU AWAY FROM HIM, SUSAN!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING...
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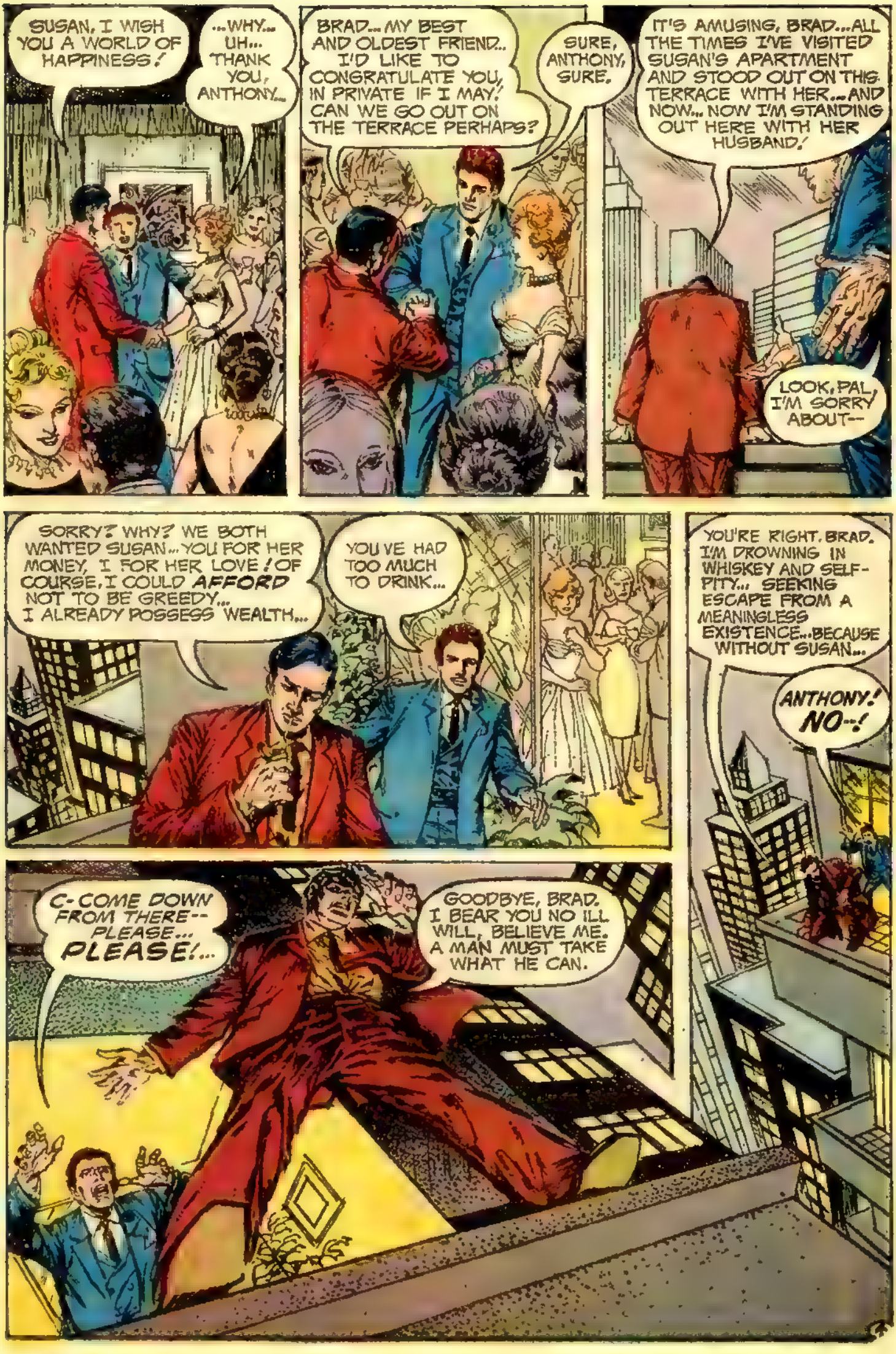
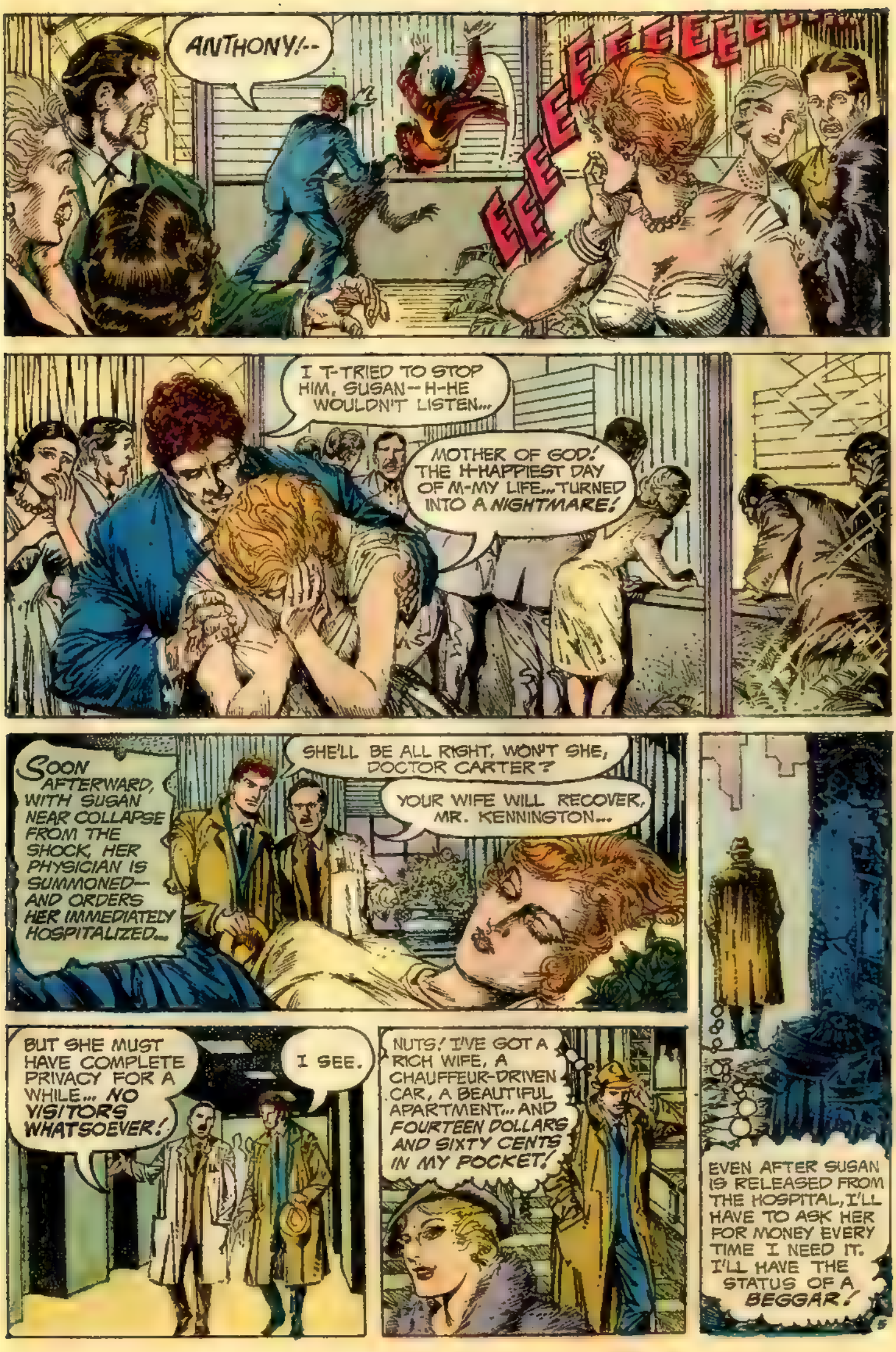
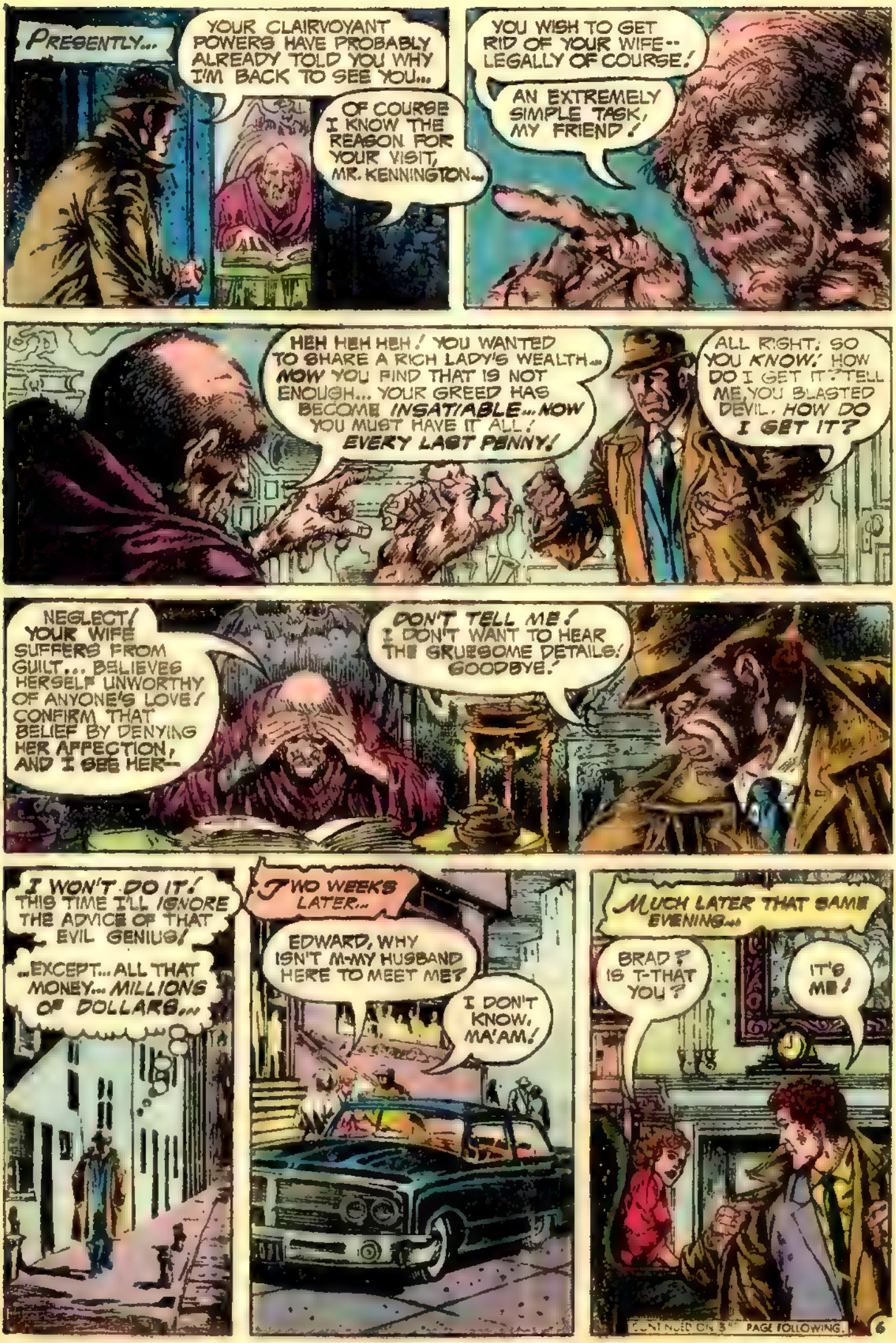
THE FOLLOWING EVENING...
I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF... IT JUST SLIPPED OUT... I FELT COMPELLED TO ASK SUSAN OUT TONIGHT...
...AND WHY NOT? WHY SHOULD I FEEL I'M DOING SOMETHING CRIMINAL BY COURTING A GIRL WHO OBVIOUSLY LIKES ME?
SUSAN--YOU LOOK RAVISHING!
MY GUILT DOESN'T SHOW?
THEN YOU DO FEEL IT'S WRONG--GOING OUT WITH ME, ANTHONY'S CLOSEST FRIEND!
NOT REALLY. IT'S SIMPLY THAT ANTHONY DOES SORT OF BELIEVE I'M PLEDGED TO HIM!
WELL, REGARDLESS OF WHO FEELS HOW ABOUT WHOM, I'M PROMISING YOU THIS. YOUNG LADY--YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY ME!
WHOA THERE, MISTER! I'M NOT AT ALL SURE ANYTHING LIKE THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
BUT SURE ENOUGH, LESS THAN A MONTH LATER...
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
AND SOON AFTER, DURING THE WEDDING RECEPTION AT SUSAN'S APARTMENT...
HEY, BRAD! SUSAN! LOOK WHO'S HERE! ANTHONY!


SUSAN, I WISH YOU A WORLD OF HAPPINESS!
...WHY... UH... THANK YOU, ANTHONY...
BRAD... MY BEST AND OLDEST FRIEND.. I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU, IN PRIVATE IF I MAY! CAN WE GO OUT ON THE TERRACE PERHAPS?
SURE, ANTHONY, SURE.
IT'S AMUSING, BRAD...ALL THE TIMES I'VE VISITED SUSAN'S APARTMENT AND STOOD OUT ON THIS TERRACE WITH HER...AND NOW... NOW I'M STANDING OUT HERE WITH HER HUSBAND!
LOOK, PAL, I'M SORRY ABOUT--
SORRY? WHY? WE BOTH WANTED SUSAN... YOU FOR HER MONEY, I FOR HER LOVE! OF COURSE, I COULD AFFORD NOT TO BE GREEDY... I ALREADY POSSESS WEALTH...
YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK...
YOU'RE RIGHT, BRAD. I'M DROWNING IN WHISKEY AND SELF-PITY... SEEKING ESCAPE FROM A MEANINGLESS EXISTENCE...BECAUSE WITHOUT SUSAN...
ANTHONY! NO--!
C-COME DOWN FROM THERE-- PLEASE... PLEASE!...
GOODBYE, BRAD. I BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL, BELIEVE ME. A MAN MUST TAKE WHAT HE CAN.


ANTHONY!--
EEEEEEEEEEE!!!
I T-TRIED TO STOP HIM, SUSAN-- H-HE WOULDN'T LISTEN...
MOTHER OF GOD! THE H-HAPPIEST DAY OF M-MY LIFE... TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE!
SOON AFTERWARD, WITH SUSAN NEAR COLLAPSE FROM THE SHOCK, HER PHYSICIAN IS SUMMONED-- AND ORDERS HER IMMEDIATELY HOSPITALIZED...
SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, WON'T SHE, DOCTOR CARTER?
YOUR WIFE WILL RECOVER, MR. KENNINGTON...
BUT SHE MUST HAVE COMPLETE PRIVACY FOR A WHILE... NO VISITORS WHATSOEVER!
I SEE.
NUTS! I'VE GOT A RICH WIFE, A CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN CAR, A BEAUTIFUL APARTMENT... AND FOURTEEN DOLLARS AND SIXTY CENTS IN MY POCKET!
EVEN AFTER SUSAN IS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL, I'LL HAVE TO ASK HER FOR MONEY EVERY TIME I NEED IT. I'LL HAVE THE STATUS OF A BEGGAR!


PRESENTLY...
YOUR CLAIRVOYANT POWERS HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY TOLD YOU WHY I'M BACK TO SEE YOU...
OF COURSE I KNOW THE REASON FOR YOUR VISIT, MR. KENNINGTON...
YOU WISH TO GET RID OF YOUR WIFE-- LEGALLY OF COURSE!
AN EXTREMELY SIMPLE TASK, MY FRIEND!
HEH HEH HEH! YOU WANTED TO SHARE A RICH LADY'S WEALTH... NOW YOU FIND THAT IS NOT ENOUGH... YOUR GREED HAS BECOME INSATIABLE... NOW YOU MUST HAVE IT ALL! EVERY LAST PENNY!
ALL RIGHT: SO YOU KNOW! HOW DO I GET IT? TELL ME, YOU BLASTED DEVIL. HOW DO I GET IT?
NEGLECT! YOUR WIFE SUFFERS FROM GUILT... BELIEVES HERSELF UNWORTHY OF ANYONE'S LOVE! CONFIRM THAT BELIEF BY DENYING HER AFFECTION, AND I SEE HER--
DON'T TELL ME! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE GRUESOME DETAILS! GOODBYE!
I WON'T DO IT! THIS TIME I'LL IGNORE THE ADVICE OF THAT EVIL GENIUS!
...EXCEPT... ALL THAT MONEY... MILLIONS OF DOLLARS...
TWO WEEKS LATER...
EDWARD, WHY ISN'T M-MY HUSBAND HERE TO MEET ME?
I DON'T KNOW, MA'AM!
MUCH LATER THAT SAME EVENING...
BRAD? IS T-THAT YOU?
IT'S ME!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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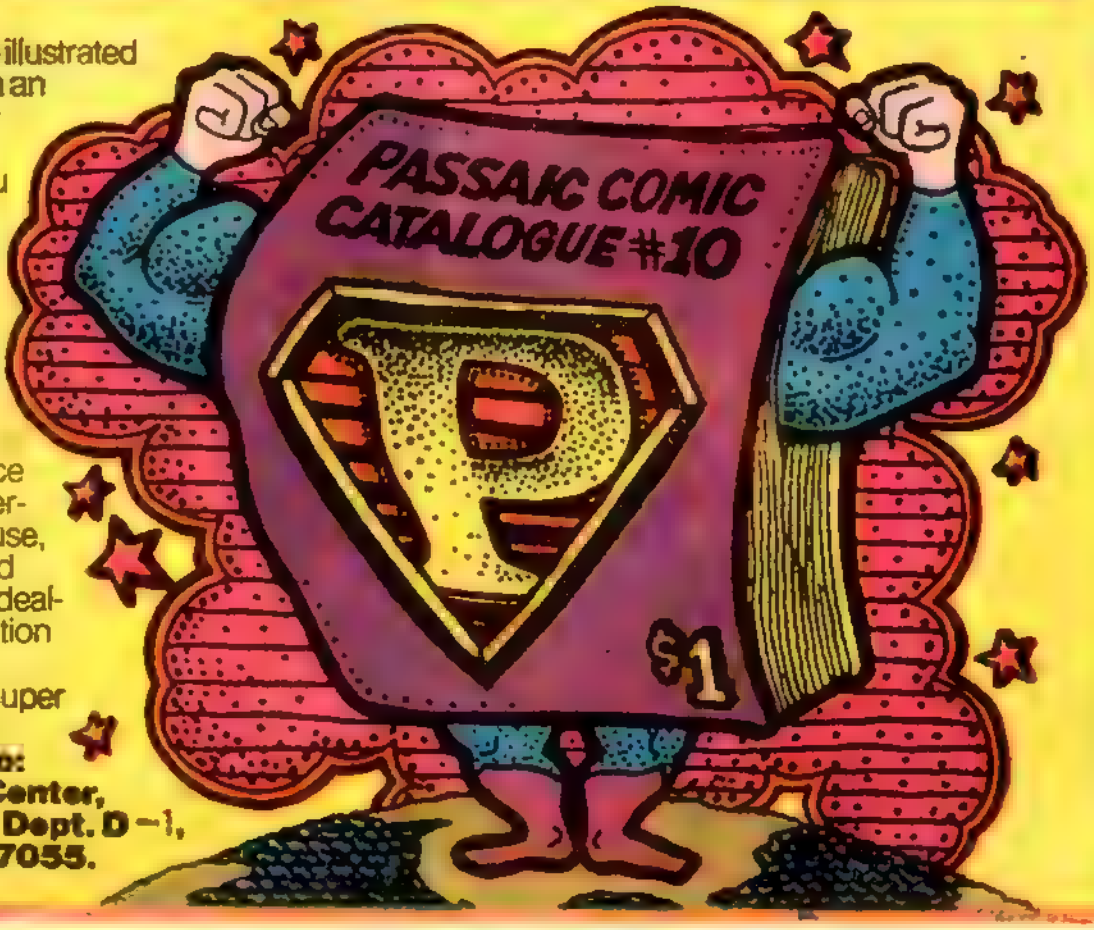

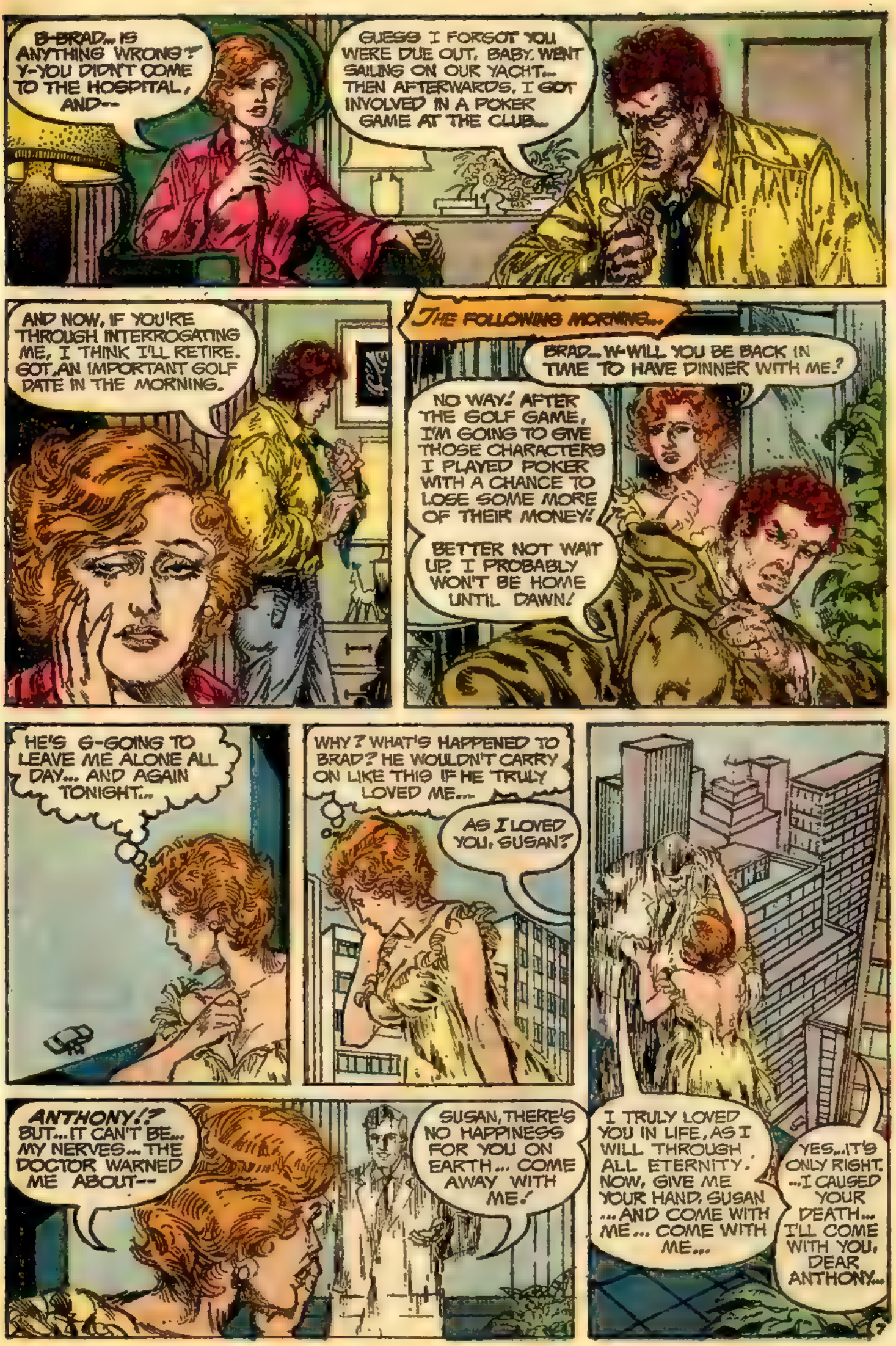
B-BRAD... IS ANYTHING WRONG? Y-YOU DIDN'T COME TO THE HOSPITAL, AND--
GUESS I FORGOT YOU WERE DUE OUT, BABY. WENT SAILING ON OUR YACHT... THEN AFTERWARDS, I GOT INVOLVED IN A POKER GAME AT THE CLUB...
AND NOW, IF YOU'RE THROUGH INTERROGATING ME, I THINK I'LL RETIRE. GOT AN IMPORTANT GOLF DATE IN THE MORNING.
THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
BRAD... W-WILL YOU BE BACK IN TIME TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME?
NO WAY! AFTER THE GOLF GAME, I'M GOING TO GIVE THOSE CHARACTERS I PLAYED POKER WITH A CHANCE TO LOSE SOME MORE OF THEIR MONEY!
BETTER NOT WAIT UP. I PROBABLY WON'T BE HOME UNTIL DAWN!
HE'S G-GOING TO LEAVE ME ALONE ALL DAY... AND AGAIN TONIGHT...
WHY? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BRAD? HE WOULDN'T CARRY ON LIKE THIS IF HE TRULY LOVED ME...
AS I LOVED YOU, SUSAN?
ANTHONY!? BUT... IT CAN'T BE... MY NERVES... THE DOCTOR WARNED ME ABOUT--
SUSAN, THERE'S NO HAPPINESS FOR YOU ON EARTH... COME AWAY WITH ME!
I TRULY LOVED YOU IN LIFE, AS I WILL THROUGH ALL ETERNITY. NOW, GIVE ME YOUR HAND, SUSAN ...AND COME WITH ME... COME WITH ME...
YES... IT'S ONLY RIGHT. ...I CAUSED YOUR DEATH... I'LL COME WITH YOU, DEAR ANTHONY...

THE FOLLOWING EVENING...
HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?
IF YOU EXPECTED TO QUESTION MR. KENNINGTON ABOUT HOW HIS WIFE MIGHT HAVE COME TO FALL TO HER DEATH FROM THE TERRACE, INSPECTOR--
--I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED. HE'S JUST SUFFERED A FATAL HEART ATTACK!
WHEW! THAT'S ONE FOR THE BOOKS, THEY BOTH CHECKED OUT WITHIN A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PERIOD.
WELL, THANKS ANYWAY, DOC...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL ANYONE WHAT MR. KENNINGTON TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT OCCULTIST, DOCTOR CARTER?
LEGALLY THAT CLAIRVOYANT IS UNTOUCHABLE, SO WHY GIVE FREE PUBLICITY TO A MAN THAT'S A MENACE TO ALL SOCIETY?
THE REMARKABLE POWERS THAT ENABLE THAT EVIL OCCULTIST TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE, COMBINED WITH THE GREED THAT GNAWS AWAY LIKE A CANCER WITHIN ALL HUMAN BEINGS--
--WOULD SEND HIM A FLOCK OF GREEDY FOOLS LOOKING FOR QUICK FORTUNES. RIGHT, DOCTOR?
EXACTLY.
THE LURE OF RICHES CAN CERTAINLY CORRUPT A PERSON'S MIND.
WELL, GOOD NIGHT, DOCTOR CARTER.
SOME TIME LATER...
KNOCK KNOCK
ENTER!...
BE SEATED, YOU WHO WOULD SEEK GREAT WEALTH...
...DOCTOR CARTER IS YOUR NAME... IS IT NOT?
END
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN JULY

When I dropped by the DC offices this afternoon, there was so much going on that I couldn't even find my desk! It's only February, but we're getting our summer line of comics ready and those are the ones that we take extra-special care with. To add to that, there's a move in the air. Around the time that you'll be reading this, DC is moving cross-town to a beautiful new office, and the whole office is literally crawling with architects and their blueprints and plans. And as those aforesaid blueprints have a lot to do with one of my favorite projects, ye old Inquiring Fanatic is going to go *Behind The Scenes* once more, to give you the latest news on. . .

THE DC APPRENTICE PROGRAM

What do blueprints have to do with our new apprenticeship program? Why, it's simple, my friends, I was taking a look at the plans for the office that the bullpenners are going to use.

As you may remember, at this year's *July Comic Art Convention*, here in New York City from July 4th to 8th, the various editors of DC Comics will be inspecting portfolios of young people who want to become writers and artists for the comics industry (for more details, see *Behind The Scenes* #1 or write: Comicon, NPP, 909 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022). Those people who are selected will be employed as apprentices, and given the opportunity to study their crafts here in the office. Sol Harrison, the production manager and creator of the Apprentice Program, has already brought in two new people to the business this way—Allen Milgrom and Carl Gafford. Some good scripts have been submitted that are being worked on. Be sure to give your talent a chance.

Anyway, back to the blueprints. It's a studio office, all set up to help the apprentices serve as assistants to our top artists and writers. The new offices also are going to give our regular people more room to work in, so don't be surprised if they enjoy their new spacious rooms so much that they come up with a lot of new books and features.

For instance, Denny O'Neil has decided to revitalize *WEIRD WORLDS!* There's going to be a big surprise coming your way in the December issue, but it's a little too early to tell you about it. So I'll just tell you that there's a sneak preview of the new feature coming your way in the October issue, and I'll give you some background information on our hottest new strip in my next column. Denny's breathlessly waiting for his new office, and you can count on even more surprises from him when he gets there!

Practically every editor has a new project in mind. Some are new books that I've already told you about (like Julie Schwartz's *Strange Sports Stories*) and others are new titles that are still top secret (I can't wait to tell you about them, but I've got to hold off a little while.) and still others are new formats or ideas for long established mags.

Legion Of Super-Heroes fans will be glad to hear that Superboy's magazine is now "Superboy And The Legion Of Super-Heroes" in response to the great job that Cary Bates and Dave Cockrum have been doing on the strip and the fantastic fan mail that they get.

Joe Simon's still hard at work creating new ideas. His latest blockbuster is *Champion Sports Stories*, a companion mag to *Strange Sports Stories*. This mag's different though, its emphasis is on ordinary sports reporting, not the fantasy stories in *Strange Sports*. It'll be coming your way on July 26th. His classic mystery stories from the golden age of comics (done with the one and only Jack Kirby) are also going to be coming your way—in a new mag called *Black Magic*.

Of course, there's a lot happening with our other mags too; I noticed a lot of new things on our editors' desks, and I'd like to pass some of them on to you. So let's look at the latest. . .

HAPPENINGS

Comic book fans always look forward to the annual *Justice League-Justice Society* team-up in the summer issues of JLA. Last year, the *Seven Soldiers Of Victory* guest-starred. This year, editor Julie Schwartz and writer Len Wein have conspired to return the greatest heroes of the *Quality* comics line to action. They're your old favorites—heroes like *The Ray, The Black Condor, Doll Man, Uncle Sam, The Human Bomb* and *The Phantom Lady*. And they're all busy with a "Crisis On Earth-X". Watch for the first part of this story, on sale now.

Golden Age fans will want to get copies of *Secret Origins* #5 (out in August) reserved at your newsstand months in advance! Nelson Bridwell has decided to reprint the two-part origin of *The Spectre* in that issue, from the dawn of DC Comics. The issues of *More Fun Comics* that those stories appeared in now sell to collectors for over $200! That's a pretty good buy for 20¢!

The Phantom Stranger gets a new look soon, courtesy of a new writer who is an old pro—Arnold Drake, the man who created *The Doom Patrol*. And The Spawn Of Frankenstein is being taken over by one of our top weird writers (in more than one sense of the word), Steve Skeates.

On the personal side of things, Sol Harrison's been making mysterious trips to a small town in Illinois recently. Get ready for the inside story on Metropolis in my next Behind The Scenes column.

Back to the July Convention for a moment. I thought you'd like to know that besides the future of DC, our past and present will be well represented. Bob Kane, the artist who helped create *The Batman* in the forties will be a guest of honor (our past lives!) and C.C. Beck, the artist behind *Shazam!* will be there representing our present. Not to mention the dozens of other DC people who'll be attending.

There's much, much more happening here, so stick with us. It's going to be a long summer, and we've got a lot of things coming just for you!

—P.L.

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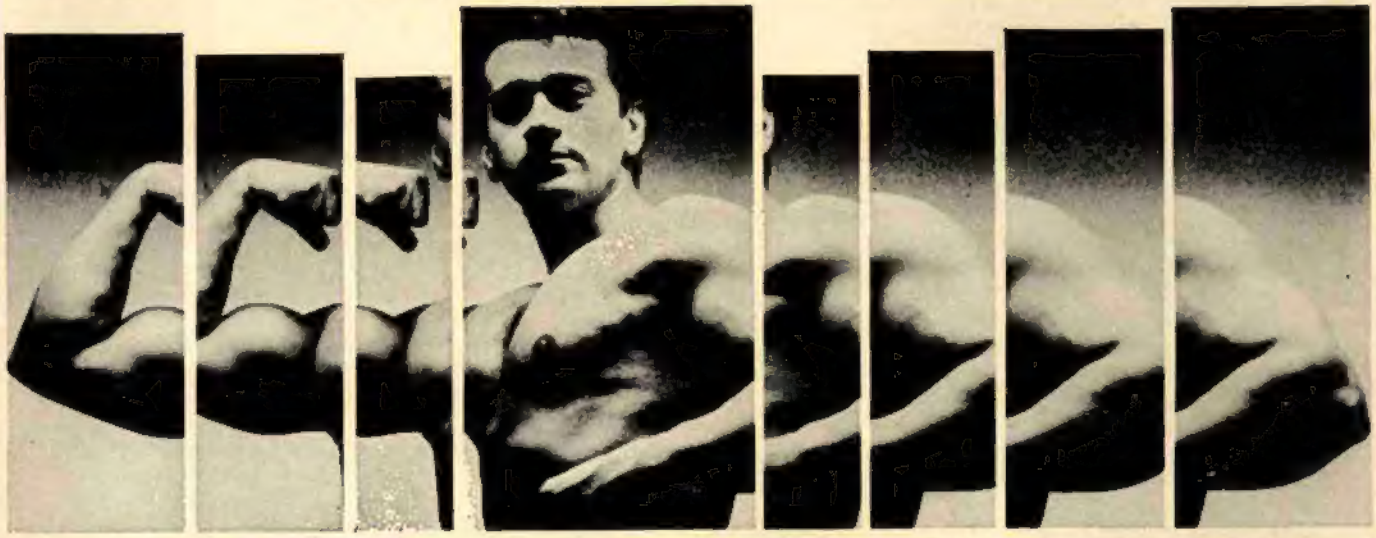

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